

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A screening method for a candidate antidiabetic substance, said method comprising the steps of:

bringing a candidate substance to be screened into contact with a target protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 which is capable of interacting with a ~~thiazolidine derivative selected from the group consisting of~~ pioglitazone, ~~rosiglitazone, troglitazone or ciglitazone~~, wherein said candidate substance is a substance that has not yet been determined to be an antidiabetic;

screening for the presence or absence of any interaction between the candidate antidiabetic substance and the target protein; and

determining that the candidate antidiabetic substance has a pharmacological action similar to that of ~~the thiazolidine derivative~~ said pioglitazone.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a low molecular weight compound.

27. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a protein.

28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(Previously Presented)** The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said protein is immobilized on a substrate and said candidate substance is brought into contact with said immobilized protein in order to measure the capability of said candidate substance to interact with said protein.

30. **(Canceled)**

31. **(Previously Presented)** The screening method according to claim 29, wherein said substrate is a chip.

32-34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** The screening method according to ~~claim 33~~, claim 23, wherein said screening is performed by surface plasmon resonance.

36-44. **(Canceled)**